

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Official Organ of the Saint Louis Bird Club
for the Promotion of
Bird Enjoyment, Bird Study and Bird Conservation

Vol. 1

November 9, 1932

Number 3

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BIRD CLUB PROGRAM

The next meeting of the St. Louis Bird Club will be held at the Cabanne Library, Union and Cabanne, November 16, at 8 p.m. The program will center about the topic: "Summer Experiences of Members in Bird Observation." We want to hear alike from those who vacationed away from St. Louis and from those who observed in the home area.

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

The hands of the calendar have swung around to the hour for renewal of our Club activities: very soon we shall assemble for our first monthly meeting this fall. It is the unanimous feeling of the officers of the Club and of the Executive Committee that much concrete work may be accomplished this season and that our membership will quickly catch this enthusiasm and exhibit it in various ways. May we suggest some of these ways: Contributions to the Club "Bulletin," service on the committees or helpful suggestions to committee members, and attendance at the monthly meetings, together with active participation in those meetings, - these are some ways in which you may help. Your President visited people associated with several Bird Clubs in the East this past summer and returns to you with the benefit of an interchange of ideas, suggestions, and problem discussions. Above all, let it be stated that the Eastern clubs are interested in us and desire to learn of our efforts and ac-

complishments; may we live up to their expectations!

Our various committees, established late in the spring, are now ready to function smoothly, that the Club as a whole may direct its efforts in several directions. The Membership Committee will have a revised membership list for us and will seek to secure new members; the Bulletin Committee will gather and publish much interesting material for distribution; the Publicity Committee will formulate plans for a Club Year Book and create a comprehensive scrapbook of clippings on bird life available for the perusal of members; there will be most important matters discussed by our Committees on Conservation and upon Cemeteries and Sanctuaries, with reports and recommendations thereon; finally there will be an interesting and varied set of programs arranged for the monthly meetings.

For our Club to function in any practical sense, your attendance at meetings and your active interest are indispensable factors: we are honestly attempting to make the meetings worth while-- won't you give them a trial? It is the desire of your that such measures as shall stimulate interest in bird life and bird observation among our members shall receive first consideration. May the origin of such measures be found in a large number of the Club's membership- through the columns of our Bulletin or through presentation of your ideas at the meetings.

The while we struggle bravely out of the Great Depression, our feathered friends continue to set us an example of patience and cheerfulness: why not display our appreciation of their companionship by building up a Bird Club whose energy and progress will rival those of Lord Charles Chickadee and Lady Jenny Wren?

R. L. Hobbs.

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November 9, 1932.

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Saint Louis Bird Club Bulletin
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Officers

President, R. L. Hobbs
First Vice-President, Ernest Birge
Second Vice-President, L.M. Dougan
Secretary, Barbara Cousland
Corresponding Secretary,
Elisabeth Allen Satterthwait
Treasurer, Byron W. Moser
Assistant Treasurer, Walter Palmer
Editor, A. F. Satterthwait
Associate Editors: Barbara Cousland
Clara Heising
Tom Kirksey.

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EDITORIAL

A study of Numbers 1 and 2 of Vol. 1 of our Bulletin has enabled your new Editor to develop courage to comply with the urgent request of your good President to carry on during the forced absence of Mr. Barger, who so ably launched this project.

Among the suggestions made to or by Mr. Barger was that of Directed Aims. Number 2 focussed attention to the Starling. Number 3 was to have appeared in September and was to have focussed attention upon the European Tree Sparrow. But here is Number 3 without more than two or three records of observation of this bird during the time between the issuance of No. 2 and the preparation of No. 3. This plan of Directed Aim seems entirely practicable and worthy of continuance in playing up a particular bird for each issue.

Another directed aim, in no wise in conflict with the aim mentioned earlier, is offered by Mr. Widmann. The conscientious search for all individuals of the Redhead residing in Missouri during the period of October to April will cultivate a purposeful attention to a phase of ornithology which is modern and is as fascinating as it is important. It is ecology, the study of the creature in its environment.

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER SOCIETIES

The Ernest Thompson Seton lecture, "Wild Animals I Have Known," given in the Soldan High School Auditorium under the auspices of the Bird Club, jointly with the Academy of Science and the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, October 13, was greatly appreciated by an attentive audience of 1,450. One bird lover, Mr. Shay, influenced over 120 students from his school to attend. Every one responsible for the lecture appreciated this valuable cooperative leadership.

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The Patton lecture with five reels of micromovies of living embryos given by the Academy of Science in Wilson Hall, October 26, proved to be extremely interesting. This magnificent work was inspired and financed by Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin, and the technical work done by Dr. Patton and Mr. Baldwin's chief assistant. Chick embryos were used until the chick was too large, then Wren embryos were substituted.

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The annual meeting of the National Association of Audubon Societies, held October 25, resulted in the reelection of Dr. T. G. Pearson, President, and Dr. Frank M. Chapman and Mr. F. Wharton, Directors, with no change in policies.

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AT THE ST. LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL a Bird Club has recently been organized among some of the boys: weekly trips over the school property are being made for the purpose of building up bird lists: the boys are making bird houses and feeding trays to erect on the premises, and discussions are being carried on as to the identification of various bird species. R.L.H.

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CHOICE BIRDING PLACES

IF YOU DISCOVER areas for bird observation that prove regularly effective, send the Bulletin this fine news, that other members may profit thereby. Eventually we shall be able to list such places in a way that will appeal to members living over a wide area of St. Louis City and County.

R.L.H.

November 9, 1932

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CLUB

Your Editor asked Mr. Otto Widmann to contribute to as nearly every number of your Bulletin as he might find agreeable from his standpoint. Here is his response:

5105 Enright Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

November 3, 1932

Dear Mr. Satterthwait,

Mrs. Satterthwait told me in a letter of a week ago that you had kindly undertaken the editing of the next Bulletin of the St. L. Bird Club. As it is my pleasurable duty to help the society which presented me with honor membership I am pondering over the question what to do in the short time left to do it since you must have it in your hands before the 9th of this month. I think no contribution will be of interest unless it brings something new. Your readers would not care much to hear how many flocks of Grackles or Robins I have seen on my rides through the suburbs and how many species I looked for in vain because they had left their summer haunts. I decided to ask you whether you agree with me that it would be a good plan to make us all work at a certain problem for solution. For this purpose I would suggest to find out how many Red-headed woodpeckers winter with us in Missouri. This would require the reporting in the Bulletin of every individual Redhead where and when discovered this winter from Oct. 1 till April. It is known that the Redheads leave us about the middle of September and that not more than one of every ten breeders remains. I begin my report with one Redhead on October 19 in Hampton Park. Another visit to the same place yesterday (Nov. 2d) showed the presence of two. Another individual was seen Oct. 21st on McKelvey Mt. near the St. Charles Rd. This makes three Redheads for the whole time from Oct. 1 till Nov. 2d. While looking for this species we cannot help seeing others and at home we can study the State Lists, the Regions and particularly the Christmas Censuses of former years to find out where most Redheads winter. We will probably learn that they are most common where the beech

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trees bear the best nuts, not in the South but east of Illinois.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Satterthwait,

Yours truly,
(Signed) O. Widmann

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FIELD REPORTS OF MEMBERS

Lists received from several members are here briefly discussed. Dr. R. J. Terry and Mr. L. E. Smith noted seven species, including Sparrow Hawk and Mourning Dove, along the Missouri River in St. Louis Co., and 8 species at Boschertown, Mo., including Swamp Sparrow, large numbers of Tree Swallows, immature Redwings, mostly ♀♀, and Pectoral Sandpiper, Oct. 8. Mr. Smith and Ralph Swain found 17 species about a clump of dry giant ragweed near the Fox Den in Forest Park, 2.30 to 4 p.m., Oct. 29. The high spot of the afternoon was furnished by Purple Finches, the males of which were very brilliant and very beautiful with the females in the sunshine. Mr. Hobbs reported 15 species from Webster Groves and 11 from Country Day School. About Webster, Bluebirds were observed in 3's and 4's, Oct. 12, 14, 19, 25; meadowlarks continued common to Nov. 3; European Tree Sparrows were about Oct. 2 and since, and two small flocks of Cedar Waxwings were seen flying, and a Redhead was noted Oct. 14, and Nov. 2. At Country Day, he saw his first Junco; five Cedar Waxwings were seen Oct. 25, and again 26; a Nighthawk and a Chimney Swift, also a Chewink, were recorded among others Oct. 12, and the latter heard Oct. 26. Tom Kirksey reported identifying about St. Louis several species, including Yellow-throated Vireo, Sep. 25; Junco and Pine Warbler, Oct. 12; Bay-breasted Warbler(?) and White-crowned Sparrow, Oct. 24; and Palm Warbler, Oct. 27. At Horseshoe Lake, Oct. 9, many scattered Cormorants, five American Egrets near by and more in sight, scores or hundreds of Killdeer, and with them Pectoral Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs. Miss L. R. Ernst observed these same birds, Oct. 9, also a Loon, Herring Gull, Black Tern and other birds. Ed.

PERSONALS

The Club will very much miss the presence of Mr. Barger of Concordia Seminary this season; he will be remembered as the first editor of the "Bulletin" and a talented observer whose field contributions were many and valuable. After a year's absence Mr. Barger, it is expected, will return to St. Louis and undoubtedly to active participation in our Club. Meanwhile he requests a regular copy of the Bulletin and promises very interesting messages for us from his home state, Virginia. R.L.H.

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On October 25, Dr. R. J. Terry attended the showing of certain bird motion picture films at the Chapel services at Country Day School. One film was on bird nests and one was on game birds. Dr. Terry then addressed the student body of about 250 on bird conservation.

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On October 26, your Corresponding Secretary received an S O S call from the Curtiss-Wright Airplane Co., Lambert Field, for the name of a bird to be used in naming an airplane. Some questioning elicited the information that the requirements would be a bird of medium size, one that occurs in Missouri occasionally, but that is found sometimes in Mexico, Bolivia, and Northern South America. A list of about 40 birds with geographic distribution was supplied within two hours.

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Information recently acquired concerning movie films of bird life assures the Club members of several treats during this winter in the form of reels at monthly meetings. More definite announcements later. R.L.H.

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Mr. R. L. Hobbs addressed the Alton Womens' Council Talahi at their afternoon meeting, October 28, on birds in general. Fifty persons were present and questions asked, indicated interest in subscribing for Bird Lore and in distributing bird seed.

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Dr. U. S. G. Arnold reported seeing a Starling about one mile south of Martinsburg, Mo., October 19, 1932.

In June 1932, Mrs. A. F. Satterthwait gave a 15 minute Bird Talk from Station KRM for the St. Louis Educational Society.

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BOOK NOTICES

Rex Brashow, of Connecticut, has completed his faithful and accurate record of 1,200 species of birds of North America, in a twelve-volume set of water colors, 900 plates, 300,000 illustrations, at \$2,400. The edition was limited to 100 copies, of which 80 were sold prior to the writing of the article in the Post, October 30. It appears that Senator Harry Hawes has purchased one set. The Club would be proud if one of its members were to possess a set.

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The manuscript of a "Check-list of the Birds of Missouri," by Dr. Rudolf Bennett, Associate Professor of Zoology, University of Missouri, has been submitted to the Academy of Science for publication and your Editor has much appreciated the privilege of reading it critically. He believes this list should be published, and entertains the hope that the Academy may find a way to finance it. Mr. Otto Widmann, Dr. H. C. Oberholser and many other ornithologists have been credited with generous cooperation in the preparation of this list, which follows the classification and nomenclature of the 1931 edition of the A.O.U. "Check-List of North American Birds." There are 387 species and subspecies now recorded in Missouri, each with its seasonal status. A hypothetical list of 64 species and subspecies not yet recorded in Missouri but known to occur within 50 miles of this state, focusses the attention of the reader upon birds specially to be sought. In foot notes, other birds recorded more than 50 and less than 100 miles from the state are noted. Thretables visualize the statistics of the list. The derivations of all scientific group names above the status of genus are given, and a bibliographic list is attached, citing more than 80 titles. (Taken from notes submitted by Dr. Bennett at Editor's request.)